

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A composition comprising a mixture of sulfonated 3,4-dihydroxybutane, sulfonated 1,4-dihydroxybutane and sulfonated oligomers of 3,4-epoxy-1-butene.

19. (currently amended) A polyester which comprises residues of a monomer comprising a sulfonated and sulfinated, or disulfonated mixture of sulfonated 3,4-dihydroxybutane, sulfonated 1,4-dihydroxybutane and sulfonated oligomers of 3,4-epoxy-1-butene wherein the monomer is suitable for polycondensation, thereby providing sulfonate containing polyesters.

Claims 20-22 (canceled)